The University has clarified that no double standards are adopted in such matters and each case is dealt with as per the laid down procedure and merits of individual cases. As regards the issue of general guidelines to deal with such matters, the Government has already circulated to all educational institutions the detailed guidelines laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on sexual harassment of women at work place and in education institutions which includes, *inter-alia,* the details of preventive steps, complaint mechanism, disciplinary action, etc.

Improvement of Science Education

409. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has approached the Central Government for according sanction of Rs. 700 lakhs for implementation of the Ninth Phase of the scheme on "Improvement of Science Education"; and

(b) if so, by when the sanction for the amount is proposed to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Government of Karnataka had submitted a proposal for financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 700.00 lakhs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Improvement of Science Education in Schools" for implementation of the Ninth phase of the scheme in the State. During 2001-02, this Department has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 528.22 lakhs to the State Government for implementation of the scheme after adjustment of unspent balances etc. The said amount has been released to the State Government by July, 2002.

Discontinuation of subsidy for higher education

†410. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that at the time of inauguration of the golden jubilee ceremony of UGC, the Prime Minister had announced the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

discontinuation of the subsidy in future which is being given by Government in the field of higher education;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken by Government on the basis of the said announcement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Government considers the amount spent on higher education as an investment in human resource development and there is no proposal to reduce it. The Prime Minister of India in his speech at the time of inauguration of the Golden Jubilee Ceremony of UGC emphasized the need for revision of fee structure in higher education.

Ecological Impact of sand mining

411. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the ecological impact of sand mining in the coastal sea beds;

(b) if so, the names of agencies with expertise to conduct such studies in the country;

(c) the details of the study report thereto;

(d) whether Government have received any proposal for sand mining in the coastal sea beds from any State Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.